

# FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Julie Ann Larry  
**Organization:** ttl-architects  
**Date (month / year):** October 2009

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

45 120

**Town:** Tewksbury

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)

**Address:** 81 Pine Street

**Historic Name:** Amos Saunders House

**Uses:** Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** c1752

**Source:** Local History/Assessor's Records

**Style/Form:** Colonial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Attached garage

**Major Alterations (with dates):**

2 1/2 story barn replaced with 1 1/2 story garage (c2008)

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no | X | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 1.01 acres

**Setting:** Located on a flat lot in a residential area comprised of Post WWII subdivision development and sparsely located pre- WWII homes and farms.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TEWKSBURY

81 Pine Street

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\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The two-and-a-half story dwelling at 81 Pine Street is a five by two bay house on a rectangular granite foundation. A two-and-a-half story ell projects from the rear (north) of the main house. The walls are clad with clapboards. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A large central brick chimney protrudes from the ridge of the roof. The centrally located door is flanked by two 6/6 double hung sash windows on either side. Similar windows are located directly above the first floor openings. Windows are flanked by wooden shutters. A secondary entrance on the east side of the dwelling is accessed from the door yard. A third entrance is located at the rear of the ell's east elevation. The ell is connected to a garage. A narrow shed two-story addition has been added at the rear of the main dwelling.

The two-and-a-half story building at **81 Pine Street** is a rectangular building resting on a granite foundation. A large central brick chimney pierces the ridge of the side gable roof. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. The five by two bay building is entered by a door on the gable end wall facing the dooryard. The 6/6 replacement sash windows are flanked by wood shutters. A two story ell projects from the rear of the house. A second shed addition extends across the rear of the house. The walls of the dwelling are clad in wood clapboards.

To the rear of the dwelling is a two and a half story one-car garage. The large former barn structure has a side gable roof. The walls and roof are clad in similar materials to the main residence. A two story gable addition projects from the rear of the former barn.

The property is ringed by a stone wall. A wood gate leads from the driveway to the front yard.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The house at 81 Pine Street was occupied in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by members of the Saunders [Sanders] family.

Amos Saunders was born in Billerica in 1731 to John Saunders Jr (1677-1741) and his wife Hannah. Both John and Hannah were from Charlestown and married there in 1706. They were in Billerica by 1707 when their son John was born. Both parents died in March 1741<sup>1</sup>, when their son Amos was 10.

Amos Saunders married his wife Esther in 1758 and their first child Esther, was born in Billerica in 1759. According to local history, the Pine Street house was built c1752, probably by Amos Saunders. Amos & Esther had six children: Samuel b 1769, Timothy b 1766, Lucy B 1760, Jemima 1762, Esther b1759, and Anna b 1774

Amos and Esther's eldest son Timothy (1766-1734) married in 1791 to Rebecca Frost (b 1766). Timothy and Rebecca also had six children: Abiel (1793-1869[70])<sup>2</sup>; Rebecca (1796-after 1849); Mary Patten (1798-1821); Sarah Patten (1800-1889); Ziba (1802-1890); and Timothy (1807-1892), a blacksmith. Timothy's wife Rebecca died in 1821 of consumption, he died in 1834 also of consumption. Abiel Saunders likely inherited the farm from his father as he was living on the Tewksbury farm according to a historic 1852 map.

<sup>1</sup> Family Search Pedigree Files for John's death date and Billerica Vital Records for Hannas' death date.

<sup>2</sup> Tewksbury Vital Records p. 77

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Abiel is described in Census Records of Tewksbury in 1840, 1850, and 1860 as a farmer. Abiel married Rebekah Trull in 1839<sup>3</sup>. Rebekah [Kittredge] was the widow of Washington Trull (1799-1832), whom she married in 1825. The Trulls had one daughter, Elizabeth in 1828. Rebekah and Abiel also had one daughter, Mary Caroline in 1841<sup>4</sup>.

Abiel's sister, Mary Patten Saunders, married Benjamin Frost of Reading in 1821<sup>5</sup>. Mary and Benjamin had several children, one daughter died in infancy, and another Mary born in 1823. Mary P [Saunders] Frost died in February of 1826 and her husband remarried her sister Sarah Patten Saunders on 11 June 1826<sup>6</sup>. Sarah and Benjamin had four sons: Benjamin born June 28 1826<sup>7</sup>; Charles Carroll (b 1828) a house carpenter in Reading c1850; Andrew Jackson (b 1831) a blacksmith in Wilmington, MA c1850; and George W (1834-1898) a farmer.

It appears that Sarah returned to Tewksbury from Reading with her two youngest sons to live with her brother Abiel and his family. In the 1840s Abiel Saunders is recorded as living with two male children, probably George W (age 7) and Andrew J (age 10); a teenage daughter, probably his step-daughter Elizabeth (age 12); and two females age 30-40, probably his wife Rebekah (age 36) and his sister Sarah (age 40). In 1850, George and Sarah Frost are still living with Abiel, Rebekah, and Mary Caroline (age 10).

In 1860 the Frost's are not living with the Saunders in Tewksbury, but Abiel's nephew Milton (b 1844) resides with his uncle's family. Milton was the son of Abiel's younger brother Ziba and his wife Huldah.

In 1863 Abiel's daughter Mary Caroline married her cousin George W Frost, a cabinet maker and farmer<sup>8</sup>. Abiel died in 1869<sup>9</sup> of an "inflamed bowel". Census records indicate that the following year George, Mary, Mary's mother Rebecca Saunders and George's mother Sarah Frost are residing on the Pine Street farm. Sarah Frost died 1889, Rebekah Saunders died 1880, and Mary Caroline Saunders Frost died 1889. George Frost continues to own and occupy the farm until his death in 1898.<sup>10</sup>

Before his death George Frost remarried and his widow Amelia continued to live on Pine Street in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Boarding with Amelia c1900-1940s is her son Lewis [Louis] Small, a farmer and florist with his own greenhouses west of the house where he grew carnations. Also living in the large Pine Street house were members of Lewis' family, and various farm laborers and greenhouse workers. Lewis' family included two wives, Catherine & Edna, a daughter Ruth Small, a son Lewis who also worked in the family's greenhouses, and Lewis Jr's wife Zita. Both Zita and Ruth worked as nurses at the Tewksbury State Hospital.

Lewis Jr and Zita also had a son Lewis (1946-2009) known as Buddy. Buddy served during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Army and was awarded several decorations for his military service including the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. He was employed for many years as a manager by the DSM Neorisins Company of Wilmington. He and his wife Theresa inherited the house at 81 Pine from his mother Zita and owned the house until 2003. In 2003 the house was given to their children Matthew Lewis Small, Alison T [Small] Hancock and her husband Shawn, the owners in 2009.

In 1972 the Small family subdivided the property into 4 lots. Now the property is 12 lots totalling 12.1 acres including residential dwellings now on Marcia Jean Drive.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Tewksbury Vital Records p.182

<sup>4</sup> Tewksbury Vital Records p. 78

<sup>5</sup> Tewksbury Vital Records p.128

<sup>6</sup> Tewksbury Vital Records p.128

<sup>7</sup> According to the Vital Records of Reading, Benjamin was the son of Benjamin & Mary, but given his birth date he was likely the son of Benjamin and his second wife, Mary's sister, Sarah Patten Saunders.

<sup>8</sup> Mass. Vital Records 1841-1910 Volume 163 Page 147.

<sup>9</sup> Vital Records list 1870, grave marker lists 1869.

<sup>10</sup> Geo W Frost *Atlas of Middlesex County* 1875; Geo W Frost *Atlas of Middlesex County* 1888; U.S. Census Records 1880; and U.S. Census Records 1880.

<sup>11</sup> *Plan of Land owned by Zita A Small. Middlesex North Registry of Deeds. Book 15294 Page 111. 2009. Lot 2 on plan is house lot.*

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